

What is claimed is:

1. A method, performed with the aid of a computer, for estimating a distance a vehicle will be driven during a designated period of time, comprising:

5 verifying that data representing historical mileage information for a vehicle is accurate;

mathematically determining a forecast of mileage the vehicle will be driven during a designated time period, using the data representing historical mileage information;

assessing a probable error associated with the mileage forecast; and

10 storing the forecast usage in permanent or temporary memory.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein mathematically determining the forecast of mileage the vehicle will be driven comprises a regression analysis.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the time period is designated by a user.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the time period is designated at least initially 15 by default.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the time period is designated by specifying at least one reference date.

6. The method of claim 1, comprising providing the forecast of mileage to an output designated by a user.

20 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the output includes at least one of facsimile, e-mail, a webpage, a printer, and a wireless device.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the forecast of mileage is provided to an output automatically.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein verifying that data representing historical 25 mileage information for a vehicle is accurate comprises comparing historical data representing historical mileage information to other data representing historical mileage information.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein verifying that data representing historical mileage information for a vehicle is accurate comprises comparing said data representing historical mileage information to forecast mileage.

5

11. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the verifying that the data representing historical mileage information for a vehicle is accurate, mathematically determining the forecast of mileage, assessing a probable error associated with the mileage forecast, and storing the forecast in permanent or temporary memory is

10 performed by the computer is subject to prior confirmation by a user of the computer.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the verifying that the data representing historical mileage information for a vehicle is accurate, mathematically determining the forecast of mileage, assessing a probable error associated with the mileage forecast, and storing the forecast in permanent or temporary memory is

15 performed by the computer using data input to the computer by a user of the computer using an interactive computer interface.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the permanent or temporary memory includes memory accessible via a network.

14. The method of claim 1 further comprising a customer accessing and

20 modifying the stored mileage forecast.

15. A method, performed with the aid of a computer, for forecasting a future usage of a vehicle during a designated period of time, comprising:

25 mathematically determining a usage forecast for a vehicle during a time period designated by a user of the computer, using data representing historical usage information for the vehicle;

storing the forecast usage in permanent or temporary memory.

16. The method of claim 15, comprising providing the forecast usage to a device designated by the user.

17. A method, performed by a computer, for estimating a distance a vehicle will

30 be driven during a designated period of time, comprising the computer:

- determining a forecast of mileage a vehicle will be driven during a selected time period, using regression analysis and data representing historical mileage information; and
storing the forecast usage in permanent or temporary memory.
- 5 18. A method, performed with the aid of a computer, for estimating a distance a vehicle will be driven during a given period of time, comprising:

mathematically determining a mileage forecast for a vehicle, using data representing historical mileage information; and

assessing a probable error associated with the mileage forecast.
- 10 19. A method, performed with the aid of a computer, for evaluating an estimate of a distance a vehicle will be driven during a given period of time, comprising:

determining a mileage estimate for a vehicle, using data representing historical mileage information; and

determining a rental price for the vehicle using the mileage estimate.
- 15 20. The method of claim 20, wherein the data representing historical mileage information comprises data associated with the same vehicle.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the data representing historical mileage information comprises data associated with at least one vehicle other than the vehicle for which the mileage is estimated.
- 20 22. A method, performed with the aid of a computer, for evaluating an estimate of a distance a vehicle will be driven during a given period of time, comprising:

determining a mileage estimate for a vehicle, using data representing historical mileage information;

determining an invoice price using the mileage estimate; and

25 storing the invoice price in permanent or temporary storage.
23. The method of claim 22, comprising formatting the invoice in a human-readable and/or machine-readable form.

24. The method of claim 22, comprising providing the invoice to an output designated by a user.
25. The method of claim 24, wherein the output includes at least one of a facsimile, an e-mail, a memory accessible via a network, and a printer.
- 5 26. The method of claim 24, wherein the invoice is provided to the output automatically.
27. Computer-readable medium or media comprising machine-executable programming logic for causing a computer system to perform the methods of claims 1, 15, 17, 18, 19, or 22.
- 10 28. A computer system comprising a computer-readable medium or media including machine-executable programming logic for causing the computer system to perform the methods of claims 1, 15, 17, 18, 19, or 22.